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SOURCE Fahrt frei.

THE NEW WAGE AGREEMENT FOR
 EAST GERMAN RAILROAD PERSONNEL

In its 10 March issue, Fahrt frei (Go ahead), the weekly newspaper of railroad workers in the German Democratic Republic, published the following excerpts from the recently-concluded railroad workers' wage and salary agreement:

The agreement, which will be in force from 1 April to 1 December 1950, applies to all workers, employees, and apprentices of the East German Reichsbahn.

Persons performing services listed under the wage group for workers shall be designated as workers.

Persons permanently engaged in work listed under the salary groups for employees, and trainees with the exception of apprentices, shall be known as employees.

Hiring will be done by the responsible local office of the German Railroad, subject to approval of the Reichsbahn Trade Union Group. Personnel will be hired (a) on a temporary basis, (b) for a specified time, or (c) on an indefinite basis.

A written agreement will be made at the time of hiring, and the person engaged will receive a copy of same.

Qualified workers and employees, especially activists, are to be given additional technical training. They will be given preferential consideration for all branches of the service.

Working Hours

Regular work periods, not including breaks, shall be 8 hours per day or 48 hours per week.

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Young persons under 16 shall work 7 hours per day or 42 hours per week.

Persons over 16 and under 18 years of age shall work $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day or 45 hours per week, including time spent in technical training.

Deviations from regular working hours shall be permissible if in the interest of the railroad service.

Schedules for personnel operating locomotives and railcars, or motor vehicles, shall not exceed 8 hours in one shift.

Personnel shall not be assigned work responsibilities during breaks, interruptions of work during which employees may leave the place of work. Breaks must not be scheduled at the beginning or end of a workshift. They will total 30 minutes for a working period of 4-6 hours, 60 minutes for a working period of 6-9 hours, and 75 minutes for a period in excess of 9 hours; no break shall be of less than 15 minutes' duration.

Persons engaged in especially grimy work and/or exposed to poisonous substances shall be entitled to 20-minute wash-up periods as part of their working time.

Each gang of railroad workers will assemble along a designated pick-up route which will remain unchanged for a minimum of 2 months. The route will have a total length of not more than 5 kilometers and will not extend more than 2 kilometers from either side of the roadbed. The hours of work will be considered to begin and end at the pick-up route.

Free Days, Rest Periods

There shall be a rest period of at least 10 hours between any two work shifts.

Young workers under 18 years of age and pregnant or nursing women shall have a rest period of 14 hours between shifts.

Personnel shall be entitled to as many free days per year as there are Sundays within such period. Of the free days, at least 17 shall be Sundays, and one shall be taken in lieu of Easter, Pentecost, or one of the Christmas holidays. One day of rest shall cover a period of at least 32 hours.

Overtime, Sunday, Holiday, and Night Work

Barring unforeseen emergencies such as train delays, overtime work and unscheduled Sunday, holiday, and night work shall be performed only by order of the local railroad offices, or by order of their superiors, with the approval of the Reichsbahn Trade Union Group.

The following persons shall be excused from overtime work, at their request: (a) Personnel undergoing professional training, (b) Men and women who have completed their 60th and 50th year, respectively, (c) Women with children under 14 years of age, and (d) Disabled persons.

Extra remuneration, in addition to hourly pay, for each hour worked shall be as follows:

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1. For overtime -- 25 percent of the hourly or average piecework rate.
 2. For Sunday work (if not of the regular work schedule) -- 50 percent of the hourly or average piecework rate.
 3. For work on 1 May, New Year's Day, first and second days of Easter, Pentecost, Christmas, Good Friday, and other legal holidays -- 100 percent of the hourly or average piecework rates..
 4. For night work -- 0.10 Deutsche marks for each hour or fraction of an hour worked.
- Extra night-work pay shall be issued only to personnel performing such services as are listed in the work schedule.

Piecework

All work for which average performance standards can be established will be done on a piecework basis. Establishment of such standards will be the responsibility of the Labor Standardization Bureaus.

Day for Housework

Women with a regular work schedule of 48 hours per week, who run their households without help, shall be entitled to one full day off, with pay, during each calendar month.

Vacations

Vacation time shall be allotted as follows:

1. For young persons who have completed their 16th year before the beginning of the vacation year -- 21 days,
2. For young persons over 16 but less than 18 years old, at the beginning of the vacation year -- 18 days.
3. For personnel over 18 years old -- 12 days.
4. For personnel in executive or responsible positions -- 18-24 days.
5. For personnel engaged in work which is injurious to health, or especially hard, or which requires exposure to excessive temperatures -- 18-24 days

Three additional vacation days will be granted to recognized victims of fascism and to disabled persons.

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